

Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Study

Scoping Meetings
February 2004

Background

- I-81 studied for many years
 - On-going Projects
 - Two PPTA proposals in 2003
- NEPA clearance required before certain federal actions can occur
- Study conducted independently of PPTA proposals

Purpose of Scoping Meeting

- To share the study approach
- To identify issues to be addressed in the Tier 1 EIS
- To request information from agencies, officials, and the public

Purpose of Study

- Identify corridor deficiencies
- Develop potential solutions to address corridor needs
- Evaluate impacts of potential solutions

Study Management/Roles

- FHWA – Lead federal agency for Tier 1 EIS
- Commonwealth Transportation Board
- VDOT Study Team:
 - VDOT Project Manager (Chris Collins)
 - VDOT and DRPT Staff
 - Consultant Team

I-81 Study Area

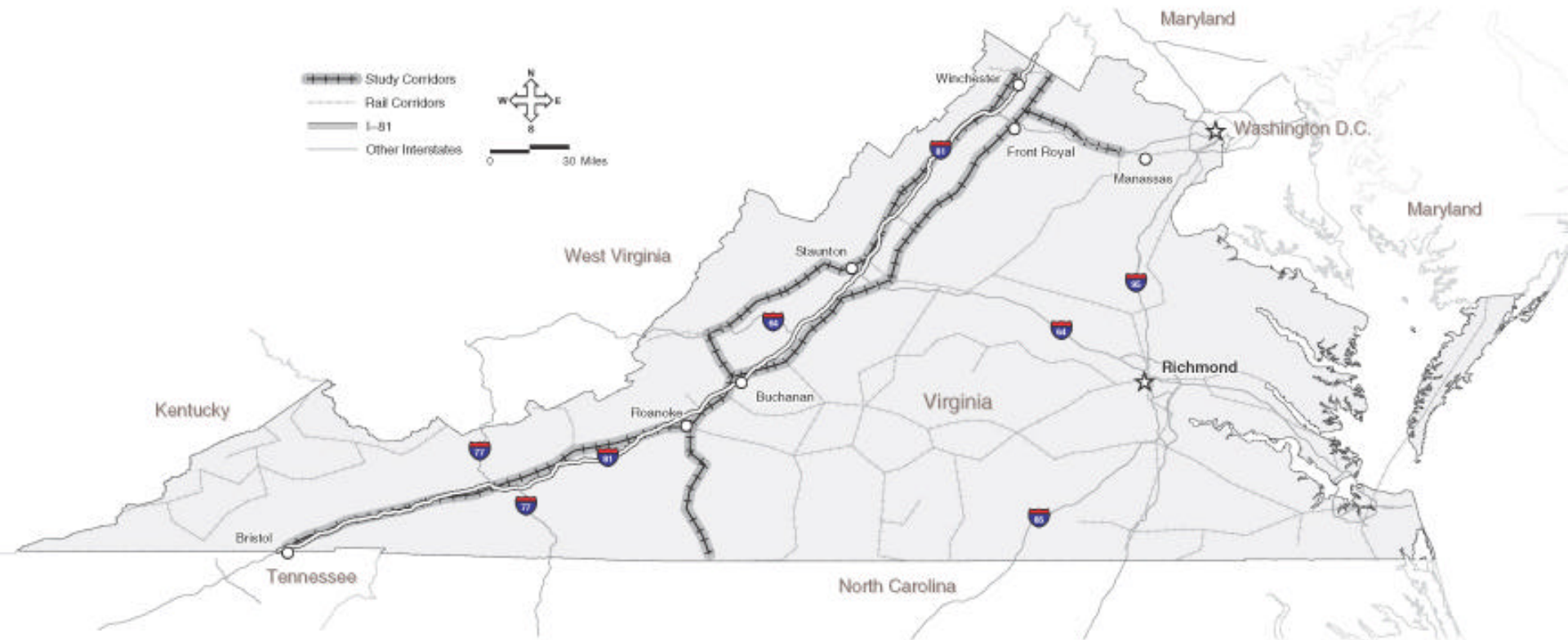
- I-81 Corridor
 - TN/VA Stateline to VA/WV Stateline
 - 325 miles, 93 interchanges

I-81 Study Area

(Continued)

- Rail corridors to be studied:
 - Norfolk Southern– Shenandoah Route, Tennessee to West Virginia
 - CSX/NS – West of I-81, Roanoke to WV
 - Norfolk Southern – Front Royal to Manassas
 - Norfolk Southern – Roanoke to NC

Study Map



NEPA Tiering

- Address corridor-wide issues in Tier 1
- Address site-specific issues in Tier 2
- Study will result in a Tier 1 Draft & Final EIS and Record of Decision

I-81 Tier 1 EIS Decisions

- Potential improvement concepts
 - Modal choice
 - Operational concepts (for example, separation of cars and trucks)
- Feasibility of toll funding

I-81 Tier 1 EIS Decisions

(Continued)

- Stand alone site specific sections to be evaluated in Tier 2 and type of Tier 2 document
- Location of corridors to be studied in Tier 2 documents
- Priority of projects for design and construction

Environmental Impact Analysis

Analysis based upon:

- Public Input
- Agency Input
- GIS information
- Limited field reviews

Resources to be Studied

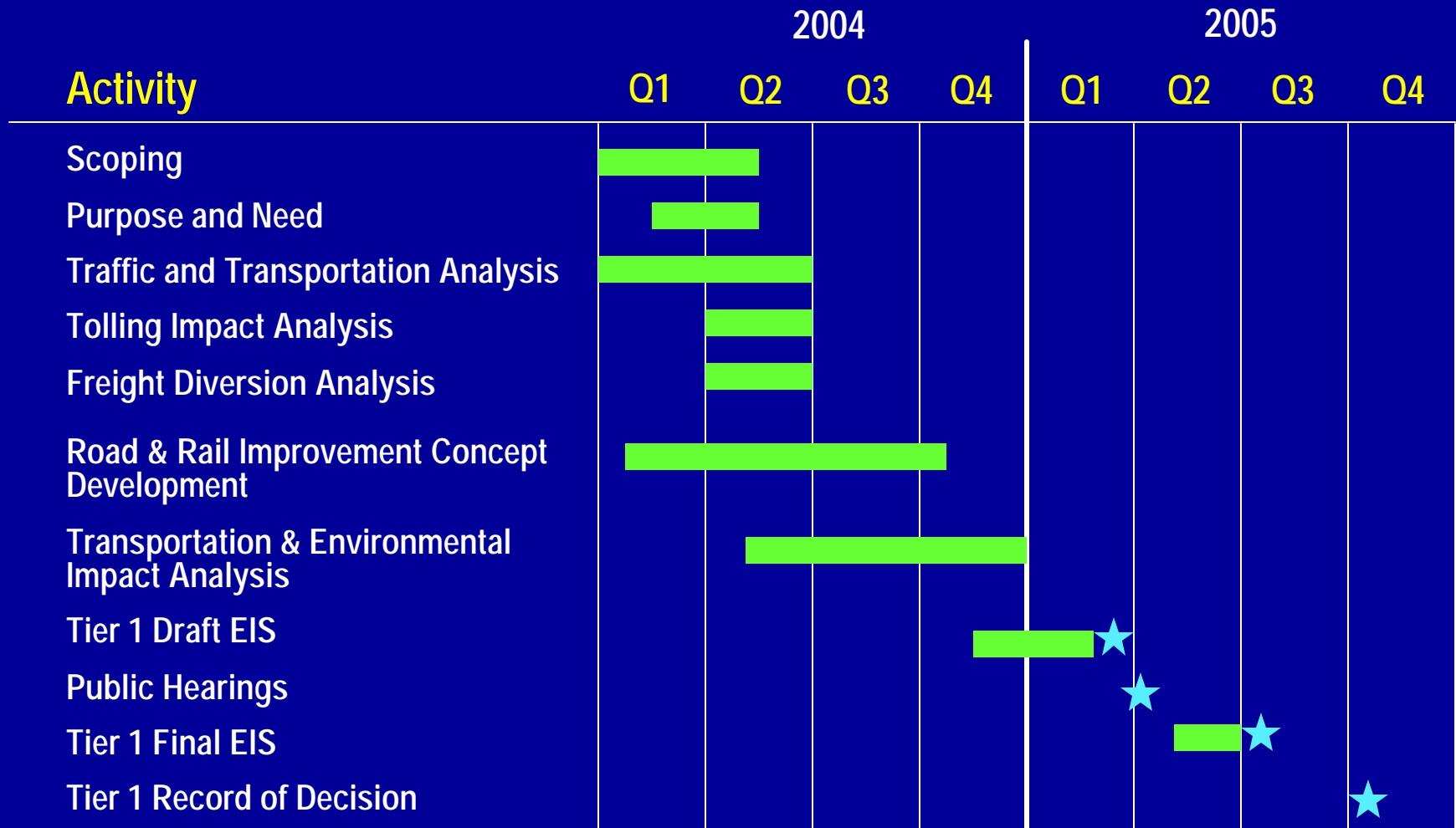
- Historic Properties
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Parks/Recreational Areas
- Farmland
- Agricultural/Forestal Districts
- Social and Economic Considerations

Resources to be Studied

(Continued)

- Land Use
- Wetlands and Water Resources
- Visual Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise Impacts

Study Schedule



Q=Yearly Quarterly

Public Outreach

- Public Scoping Meetings
- Public Hearings
- Newsletters
- Website/E-mail
(www.virginiadot.org/projects/constSTAN-I81proj-default)
- Press Releases

Scoping Meeting Summary

- Discussion of information presented
- Summary of major issues/concerns
- Description of what will be included in Tier 1 EIS
- List of formal written and verbal comments

Submit Comments to

Mr. Christopher Collins
VDOT Project Studies Manager

www.VirginiaDot.org